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Appln. No. 09/941,879 Amendment dated January 16, 2004 Reply to Office Action of September 3, 2003

Attorney Docket No. 01473/LH

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Taisei HIRAYAMA, et al.

Serial No. : 09/941,879

Filed

: August 29, 2001

For

: SAMPLE ASSEMBLY FOR

THERMOELECTRIC ANALYZER

Art Unit

: 2829

Examiner : Paresh H. Patel

Confirm. No.: 7842

Customer No.: 01933

RESPONSE FILED CONCURRENT WITH REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE) EXPEDITED PROCEDURE - GROUP 2800

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SIR:

This is responsive to the Final Office Action mailed September 3, 2003, the term for response to which is extended by two months by Petition filed concurrently herewith to February 3, 2004.

Amendments to the Abstract begin on page 3 of this paper. Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 5 of this paper.

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Appln. No. 09/941,879 Amendment dated January 16, 2004 Reply to Office Action of September 3, 2003

Amendments to the Drawings begin on page 9 of this paper and include both attached replacement sheets and annotated sheets showing changes.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 10 of this paper.